REMARKS

The December 21, 2010 Office Action noted that claims 8-10 were pending; objected to claims 9 and 10 as reciting allowable subject matter, but dependent from a rejected base claim; and rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over articles by Fischer et al., "Space-Time Transmission using Tomlinson-Harashima Precoding" and Ginis et al., "Multi-user Precoding Scheme achieving Crosstalk Cancellation with Application to DSL Systems."

Claim 8 was amended solely to add subscripting in the preamble to match the remainder of the claim. Therefore, it is submitted that the amendments reduce issues on appeal and should be entered. Claims 8-10 remain pending and under consideration. The rejection is traversed below.

In the rejection of claim 8 in paragraph 8 on page 4 of the December 21, 2010 Office Action, it was acknowledged that the article "Space-time Transmission Using Tomlinson-Harashima-Precoding" by Fischer et al. does not disclose "applying the nonlinear precoding method only to a reduced channel matrix ... whose interference elements are chosen to assume the range of values ... from the set of positive or negative integers including zero" (claim 8, last 4 lines). To overcome this deficiency, the December 21, 2010 Office Action cited page 1628, column 1 of Ginis et al. as teaching "only to a reduced channel matrix Hred that is calculated from the equation H = Hred R, whereby H is the known channel matrix and R is a residual inter-ference matrix R, whose interference elements are chosen" (Office Action, page 4, paragraph 9, apparently quoting words on lines 11-13 of claim 8 without using subscripts).

However, as noted in its abstract, Ginis et al. describes a method that "borrows from the concept of the Tomlinson-Harashima precoder ... for ... application ... in Digital-Subscriber-Line (DSL) systems" and according to the title, this "achiev[es] Crosstalk Cancellation." Specifically, as stated in the last three lines of text in column 1 on page 1628 of Ginis et al., "the concept of modulo arithmetic" employed by a Tomlinson-Harashima precoder, is extended "to the 'space' dimension." As described in the last two paragraphs in column 2 on page 1627 of Ginis et al., "appropriate signal processing at the transmitter can achieve interference-free reception" by applying these concepts in a Multiple-Input-Multiple-Output (MIMO) channel. According to the top of column 1 on page 1628 of Ginis et al., this is accomplished using "an L x L upper triangular matrix" R.

It is submitted that the triangular matrix R described in column 1 on page 1628 of Ginis et al. is not equivalent to the "residual interference matrix R, whose interference elements are chosen to assume the range of values $A_k \cdot M_k z_{kl}$, where z_{lk} is from the set of positive or negative

integers including zero" (claim 8, last 2 lines) for "user signals consisting of data symbols a_k with k from 1 to K from a signal constellation having M_k·levels and a signal point spacing A_k" (claim 8, lines 4-6). Nothing has been cited or found in <u>Ginis et al.</u> suggesting that the triangular matrix R described in column 1 on page 1628 of <u>Ginis et al.</u> is "a residual interference matrix" with elements formed as recited in claim 8. The mere use of the same letter, "R" is insufficient to assume that the matrices are the same.

Furthermore, given that the method taught by <u>Ginis et al.</u> has the capability of "achieving Crosstalk Cancellation," it is clear that the triangular matrix R described in column 1 on page 1628 of <u>Ginis et al.</u> is not equivalent to the "residual interference matrix R" recited in claim 8, because as described in paragraph [0015] of the Substitute Specification, the term "residual" refers to a partial precoding at the transmitter side that leaves residual (remaining) interference signals at the receiver side. Moreover, the partial precoding according to the invention is arranged (via particularly permitted residual interferences, described by the interference matrix R) such that the residual interference at the receiver side does not adversely affect <u>independent</u> decision making in the (independent) receivers. As recited in claim 8, this is accomplished by choosing the interference elements of the residual interference matrix R "to assume the range of values $A_k \cdot M_k z_{kl}$, where z_{lk} is from the set of positive or negative integers including zero." Thus, the residual interference matrix R recited in claim 8 is not equivalent to the triangular matrix R described in <u>Ginis et al.</u>

For the above reasons, it is submitted that claim 8 patentably distinguishes over "Space-time Transmission Using Tomlinson-Harashima-Precoding" by <u>Fischer et al.</u> in view of "Multi-user Precoding Scheme achieving Crosstalk Cancellation with Application to DSL Systems" by <u>Ginis et al.</u>

Summary

It is submitted that the references cited by the Examiner do not teach or suggest the features of the present claimed invention. Thus, it is submitted that claims 8-10 are in a condition suitable for allowance. Reconsideration of the claims and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: *Richard A. Gollhofer*
Richard A. Gollhofer
Registration No. 31,106

1201 New York Avenue, N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501